

The Tariff Conference.

The vote in the Senate on the tariff bill approaches. Then will come the conference between the two houses. Will it be long or short? And which house will obtain the greater number of concessions?

Both the House and the Senate have had the conference in mind from the start. Tariff bills are shaped in that way. Some items, some figures, are put in for trading purposes. Margins for trade are very important.

Again it is of interest to go back twenty years to the tariff conference of 1893. Then the tariff was made by the democratic party under the second Cleveland administration. Then, as now, the democratic majority in the Senate was small. Then, as now, the Senate had made many changes in the bill passed by the House. Then, as now, the bill was not entirely satisfactory to the democrats of either faction.

The conference was protracted and bitter. There was strong pulling for the bill in its original House form. William L. Wilson and his friends insisted that they had properly interpreted the tariff plank of the platform upon which Mr. Cleveland had stood in 1892, while Mr. Gorman and his friends were equally sure that the amendments to the House bill they had made were demanded by party and personal good faith.

Mr. Cleveland took the House side of the controversy, and exerted the influence of the presidency in support of Mr. Wilson. But he entered the field too late, and besides was empty handed. Mr. Gorman was strongly entrenched, and Cleveland had no ammunition. The bulk of his patronage had been used in the fight to secure the repeal of the purchasing clause of the so-called Sherman silver act. So Mr. Gorman won. It was the bill as amended by the Senate, and nothing, and the House in the end yielded.

The coming conference need be neither protracted nor bitter. Why, indeed, should not Mr. Wilson dominate the conference situation as he has done the situations leading up to it? He was early in the field, and his rank of favors has been drawn upon but slightly. His ammunition chests are heaped high.

Another point is that while they differ as to certain classifications and figures, Mr. Underwood and Mr. Simmons are not as far apart as they are made out to be. Mr. William L. Wilson and Mr. Gorman, the West Virginian was in theory, and anxious to be in practice, a free trader, while the Maryland senator was frankly a protectionist.

"Aptitude and Probable Efficiency."

Secretary Daniels is just now explaining why he made certain changes in the list of commissions in the Marine Corps recently published, from the reports of the examining board before which the applicants appeared. It develops that certain men were displaced from the board's list whose marks had been brought to a high point by good ratings under the general head of "aptitude and probable efficiency," while other men had lost appointive ratings through low marks under that head. So the Secretary took a hand and, as he explained, throwing the "aptitude and probable efficiency" standard out of the back window, he revised the markings and gave commissions to four young men whom the board had rejected to replace four who were recommended for appointment.

This matter is likely to cause considerable discussion. Eventually a better system than that which is disclosed by the Secretary's intervention will be devised for obtaining the appointments. If the "aptitude and probable efficiency" standard is to be discarded, the examinations should be strictly academic. If it is to be admitted at all, the judgment of what constitutes these qualities must be left to a single authority, a board of examiners or the appointive official. There can be no mixing of estimates on such a matter. Secretary Daniels argues, for instance, that one man, seeking to rise from the ranks, is to be rated high in "aptitude and probable efficiency" on the score of his experience, as against a possible deficiency in scholastic attainments, while he insists that the fact that certain other men "blinded" at the Naval Academy in certain studies should not operate to give them low ratings under this general head. It would seem that the Secretary has not thrown the "aptitude and probable efficiency" test clear out of the back window, inasmuch as he has used it to bring the enlisted man's markings up while disregarding it to the advantage of the three "blinded" midshipmen.

The N. A. M. believes that lobbying is the right of American citizenship. Still, out of deference to a somewhat irritated state of public sentiment, it might be well to modify its methods and invent a new name for it.

There is no doubt that with William H. Taft the question of the selection of judges has been one of especial interest.

It is stated that John Lind is not popular in Mexico. Very few people are for any great length of time.

Governor General Harrison's Job.

Governor General Harrison is leaving soon for his post, and will assume his duties next month. The man he succeeds has made a fine record in office, and possesses the good will of the Filipinos. He would not have been disturbed had the republicans won last year.

It is not likely that the Philippine question will be reached in Congress until the regular session is well advanced. More pressing business will come first.

This will give Gov. Harrison time to look about him and form some notion of the actual situation. But in six months he can hardly get so thorough a line on affairs as will give to his views and recommendations about changes in our Philippine policy great value here.

How the President will treat the question in his regular message to Congress, or, later, in a special message, is not known.

known. He may generalize, as other democrats have done. The expression on the subject at Baltimore was hearty, according to campaign requirements. If the President should take the other course and go straight to the point, recommending a way for the ending of American control, and outlining the terms of withdrawal and our relations to the new government, then Gov. Harrison's reports will be cut out for him. He will be obliged to follow his leader, or return home.

The probability is that the more extreme of the Filipinos figuring on independence for the islands will be disappointed. The meaning they have attached to the democratic triumph here last year as respects their affairs is a mistaken one. It does not signify the immediate, or early, termination of American control. Harrison will not be in Manila for the purpose of setting things in order for an independent native government to be established within the next few years.

When this fact is discovered, the agitation for independence may cause trouble for Gov. Harrison. Having put their own interpretation on the Baltimore platform and Gov. Harrison's appointment under it, they may feel that they have been deceived, and may act with resentment. In that case it will be necessary to inform them that the whole Philippine question is beyond the power of the President to settle, and that before Congress settles it, either for or against early American withdrawal from the islands, something of a distinct issue will have to be made in a national campaign. The majority of the American people have not yet voted for secession.

Railroad Wreck Side Issues.

Holding the engineer of the rear train and the flagman of the forward train that figured in the wreck on the New Haven road as criminally responsible for the disaster, the coroner at New Haven followed the usual custom of placing the blame upon the operative, immediately in charge of the train management or control. That the flagman did not go back far enough to give sufficient warning to the approaching express is to be assumed to have been established by the testimony given at the secret inquest. That the engineer failed to see or, seeing, failed to heed the warning signals is obvious from the fact that each of these men is culpably guilty of neglect of duty may be taken for granted without dissent.

But back of these men is the management that has maintained a system of train operation which depends for success upon hard-worked, fallible human agents. Repeatedly on the New Haven of late months more frequently than on any other American railroad lines—it has been proved that engineers will run past signals, either because they cannot see them or seeing do not respect them, or—and this is a matter that demands the most searching inquiry—because they know that the taking of chances in the interest of moving the traffic is considered smart railroad-ing by those in authority.

The traveler, whose life is entrusted to the railway management, has no knowledge of the number of hours the man in the engine cab has worked, or how fit he is in physical condition, or how capable he is in point of judgment. He takes the whole railroad management on trust. The management takes a chance with a system so often proved fallacious that it is well nigh criminal to continue it longer.

A favorite argument of the defenders of the present mode of railroad operation is that the percentage of accidents is very small. Taking the total number of passengers carried, and dividing that number into the total number of persons killed, the result is a seemingly trifling ratio. But the smallest ratio is needless. The wife of the one man killed out of 20,000 carried sees this as an overwhelming proportion. The orphaned children of the man and woman slain out of 100,000 cannot take comfort from the fact that the death of their parents has been a negligible percentage of fatalities.

Strike at the root of this evil, Commissioner McChord, now beginning the federal inquiry! This is not a question of wooden or steel cars, or tired engineers, or lazy flagmen, but of obsolete, profit-scraping management, avoiding as long as possible the installation of the safety devices that will absolutely prevent collisions. Attempts to correct conditions by ordering the abandonment of wooden coaches or by instituting changes in the system of rotating engineers or by lengthening the blocks or by putting heavy fines on engineers who enter occupied spaces of track will be mere palliatives, not a cure. Nobody is safe on a railroad on which it is physically possible to run a train into a block on which a train is standing. That fact, proved over and over again by bitter experience, should be the starting point of the reform which, it is most urgently to be hoped, will result from this latest sacrifice of life on the New Haven.

The directors of the Newark, N. J., trust company whose cashier piled up a total shortage of \$378,000 feel that the state eminent domain act has kept tab on the books at least as closely as Tammany kept tab on Mr. Sulzer's campaign accounts.

Aviator Pegoud is again demonstrating that the safeguards surrounding the Parisian dust do not necessarily imply that a Frenchman hesitates to risk his life for glory.

The old wooden Pullman cars were undoubtedly much handsomer than the steel coach. But modern instance recalls the wise saw, "handsome is as handsome does."

The regular theatrical season may effect a return of the spotlight from the haunts of notoriety to the people who have a legitimate need of it in their business.

For Harry Thaw to appear as an added attraction at faira might not be quite dignified. And yet it seems possible that he might enjoy it.

It would be worth while to have it decided once for all whether a writ of habeas corpus can be used like a rain check.

The New Haven's running schedule is developing even more startling tendencies to collapse than its stock quotations.

"Burn the wreckage" is not regarded as an especially admirable motto for railroads.

T. R.'s Advice to Sulzer.

Col. Roosevelt's advice to Gov. Sulzer is to take the earliest opportunity to answer the charges against him. That is sound, sensible counsel, and had it been given earlier and followed promptly Mr. Sulzer would today be standing in a better light before the country, which is potentially his friend because of the character of his accusers. But Mr. Sulzer has dallied in the denying of the charges and has done what he could to thwart the bringing of them into the open. It is not to be denied that his denials to the impeachment and his persistence in holding to the office of governor, despite the plain

letter of the state constitution, which turns the office over to the lieutenant governor when the governor is impeached—"accused"—have had a bad effect upon the minds of those who are sympathetic with him because of the nature of the opposition to him. He should have asked for a speedy trial, upon all the questions raised, with no effort to limit the range of the inquiry. Such an invitation to examine his record and his conduct would have strengthened him immensely with the people.

John D. Rockefeller says that too much time is wasted in holidays. It should be remembered, in Mr. Rockefeller's behalf, that most physicians regard golf as wholesome exercise and not a waste of time. There seems to be no reason why Uncle Joe Cannon should not run for Congress again. A man of his ripening years should not be expected to forego the customs of a lifetime.

A number of New York financiers insist that banking, even if it were conducted wholly on selfish lines, would have nothing to gain by depressing the business activities on which it depends.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Supposition.
"You are supposed to know all about banking and currency, the tariff, the Monroe doctrine and a number of other things," said the young woman.
"Yes," replied Senator Sorghum; "I'm supposed to know these things. But forunately, I didn't have to pass any civil service examination."

Deduction.
"That young statesman says he assumes to control only one vote and that is his own."
"Controls his own vote," repeated Miss Cayenne, thoughtfully; "evidently un-marrried."

Transformation.
"She had a peaches and cream complexion before she plunged into the surf."
"And after?"
"She looked like a dish of prunes."

Strange Collection.
The family album is a book
"Where any old-fashioned book
And see our grandmothers decked with care
In curious clothes and startling hair."

Bitter Criticism.
"How did you know that Bliggins was left an orphan at an early age?"
"No one with regular parents would be allowed to learn to play the violin the way he does."

Some people have a way of telling you to cheer up that sounds as if they were willing to make a bet that you can't.

The Doleful Song.

Dat doleful song! Dat doleful song!
You know it high an' low,
De bullfrog wif de gre't big gong
Keeps boomin' deep an' slow.
An' somewhere in de branches hid,
Where leaves was fad as soon,
Dat misery-makin' katydid
Keeps scoldin' at de moon.

De screech-owl walls jes' like its heart
Was broke for good an' all.
De old dog reckons he take part,
An' lifts his gravin' tale,
An' not a one of 'em has found
A thing dat's really wrong.
Some folks jes' likes to hang around
An' sing dat doleful song!

The Cost of War.

From the Chicago Journal.
There will be bitter suffering in millions of families of Europe this winter. The war will give the people of the world a lesson in the cost of war. The cost of war is not only in the loss of life and property, but in the loss of the peace of mind and the loss of the health of the people.

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Thousands of New Swimmers.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.
It is good to know, from the report of the physical director of the public schools, that more than 2,000 pupils of the schools learned to swim during the present summer. Over 4,000 boys and girls were given lessons, and of this number 46 per cent were successful in learning how to take care of themselves in the water. The instruction was given at the fourteen swimming centers conducted by the board of education at various parts of the city. It is reported that 900 pupils passed the test of swimming twenty minutes at a time, using the breast stroke exclusively, and that 319 pupils succeeded in swimming ten minutes at a time. The remainder of those who mastered the art became efficient enough to help themselves in case of accident. It was a commendable thing for the board of education to establish these swimming centers, and it is a cause of gratification that they have been so successful in turning out swimmers.

Bulgaria's Extremity.

From the New York Sun.
According to a dispatch from Sofia, the cabinet has decided to open negotiations with Turkey, "as it was believed that no other course would avert an invasion of Bulgaria by the Ottoman forces." The country is going "in a condition of fight," the feeling was that war must be avoided at all costs. History has seldom recorded such a decline in military prestige as has befallen Bulgaria since her army, aided by Serbian troops, captured Adrianople literally at the point of the bayonet, a feat that was believed to be impossible. The overwhelming defeat of the main Turkish army in one of the shortest and bloodiest campaigns of modern times gave Bulgaria the reputation of the dominant military power in the Balkans. In an evil hour diplomacy asked too much of the victorious army.

White House Joys.

From the Chicago Tribune.
It is a great thing to be a nation's chief executive. An Arkansas watermelon weighing eighty pounds has just been sent to President Wilson, and in a few months he will receive a present of a forty-eight-pound turkey from Rhode Island.

Cutting Off Munitions.

From the Detroit News.
While we must all approve the government policy forbidding the export of arms into Mexico, we must also wonder why it was not forbidden long ago.

Philippine Facts.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.
When a President stops talking about speedy independence for the Philippines it is a sign that he has begun to look into the facts.

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Double-Breasted & Norfolk Styles in Various Models.

\$5.00. Suits that were \$6.00, \$6.50 and \$7.50.

\$6.00. Suits that were \$7.50, \$8.50 and \$10.00.

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Pure wool materials in the carefully selected patterns for which our assortments have long been noted, and meriting the approval which mothers and boys have ever accorded our offerings.

These finally low prices are made to effect immediate disposal pending the receipt of the fall shipments now awaiting recognition.

Third floor, F. st.

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Luggage of unusual strength is needed for the girl or boy at boarding school or college. Just such Trunks and Suit Cases as these have been provided in our selections for their special use. Luggage that will transport their contents with safety, and that will stand severe usage. See these in our Traveling Goods Department, second floor.

School Trunks, sturdily constructed of seasoned basswood, covered with heavy duck; steel clamps, bound with hard fiber; two center bands, good brass lock, heavy lock bolts; two trays; cloth lined. All parts are thoroughly riveted, and the Trunk is made to stand rough handling.

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Second floor, Tenth st.

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Our Special Blend Colonial Coffee, 25c pound.

Walter Baker's Cocoa, 1/4 lb. can, 20c.

La Sevillana Olives, plain and stuffed; large bottle, special, 1/3 for 50c.

Naboth Brand Grape Juice, qt. bottle, 35c; 3 for \$1.00. Special.

Colonial Ginger Ale, dozen, \$1.00; case, \$1.00.

Clequot Ginger Ale, dozen, \$1.25.

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Imported Ginger Ale, dozen, \$1.30. (Rebate 15c dozen on empty bottles.)

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Sickel Pears (extra fancy) tray, 20c.

Fifth floor, Tenth st.

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Sizes 8 1/2 to 10 1/2 \$1.50 and \$2.00 pair

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For large misses and growing girls, we are showing an exceptionally strong line of Footwear, designed to meet their every requirement. Sturdy models of new and dressy types, of a smart refined character.

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Eiderdown and Blanket Bath Robes in a large variety of pattern and figured effects and colorings. Some made high neck, with down collar, long sleeves and cuffs. Others, a little low in neck and loose flowing sleeves. Shown in styles plainly or elaborately trimmed with satin bands; finished with cord and tassel at wrist lines.

\$2.75, \$3.50, \$4.5